



Thursday
APRIL 5, 2012

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

REDEYE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

THIS IS THE CENTURY

BUST THE CURSE? WIN THE TITLE? NOT THIS YEAR, BUT CUBS FANS WON'T QUIT NOW 14-15



UMPIRES
PLATE 22
1ST 9
2ND 16
BA
ER

Landmarks need a friend 7 Savory sips for pregaming 26 Got the moves like Jabba? 33

SWINGAWAY @
redeyechicago.com

BY JULIA BORCHERTS, FOR REDEYE | METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

EAT



CURSES! Sheffield's

3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989

Help lift the Curse of the Billy Goat during Smoke the Goat, which includes \$12 house-smoked goat platters including goat tacos and grilled goat sliders, served during the televised home opener (1:20-5 p.m.). Festivities also include a Batting Practice brunch buffet (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; \$15), \$4 New Holland beer pints and a post-game DJ party with burlesque performances. No cover.

LET THEM EAT CAKE Jerry's

1938 W. Division St. 773-235-1006

Give in to your sweet tooth at the kickoff for DLCTBL NYTZ (aka Delectable Nights). DJ Lady D hosts a complimentary dessert and champagne bar, guest DJ Mark Grant and others perform sets, and \$5 Saint D'lectable cocktails (prosecco, Saint Germain, soda) are available. Get there early—when the desserts are gone, they're gone. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover.

DRINK

CUBS CLUB

Captain Morgan Club

1060 W. Addison St. 773-404-4750

The Wrigley Field club opens for the season at—get this—5 a.m. with a WGN live broadcast till noon and \$11 signature cocktails on tap, including a Captain Cubbie (Captain Morgan Black spiced rum and cola) or a Captain's Nest (spiced rum, pineapple and orange juices and amaretto). 5 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

RYE-NO Sola

3868 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-327-3868

Feeling nostalgic? Relive the days when the Cubs actually looked good while losing as you sip a Rye Sandberg cocktail, made with rye whiskey, grilled pineapple, simple syrup, lemon, lime, mint and soda (\$10) and named for Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg. 5:30-10 p.m.



DO



CHI-TOWN BEATS

Chicago History Museum

1601 N. Clark St. 312-642-4600

Get your history lesson at Chicago Rocks: The Honorable Story of "The Indie City," where musician-journalist Phil Rockrohr discusses how the Windy City's 1980s punk and club scenes—plus two gay men from Colorado—caused the rise of Chicago indie music labels. A concert featuring Chris Connelly (Ministry), Dag Juhlin (Poi Dog Pondering, Slugs), **Jon Langford** (The Mekons) and others follows. 6:30-10 p.m. \$45. Cash bar.



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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

"The Butcher of Baraboo" opens Thursday at A Red Orchid Theatre (1531 N. Wells St.). Tickets: aredorchidtheatre.org.

BOWL

IT'S BOWLING SEASON! 10pin Bowling Lounge

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Canadian model Jenna Talackova, a transgender beauty queen who was dropped from the Miss Universe Canada competition by pageant representatives, has been given the green light to go by the Donald Trump-led Miss Universe Organization. **REUTERS**

TRUMP, TRANSGENDER & TIARA

CNN

LOS ANGELES It was a public relations battle featuring two well-known masters of the media, a beauty queen and a controversial question: Should someone born a man be allowed to compete in the Miss Universe pageant?

On the East Coast was Donald Trump, the New York business tycoon whose fortune and brand is boosted by his ability to navigate storms of controversy.

On the West Coast was Gloria Allred, a Beverly Hills lawyer legendary for her ability to draw hordes of cameras to her law office to capture her outrage over alleged injustices done to her clients.

The client is Jenna Talackova, a 23-year-old, 6-foot-1-inch blond Canadian who underwent sexual reassignment surgery four years ago.

Talackova won a regional beauty crown qualifying her for Canada's national title, but she was then told the Miss Canada Universe pageant in Toronto on May 19 was open only to "naturally born females."

"I am a woman," Talackova said in a prepared statement she read to reporters in All-

red's conference room Tuesday. "I was devastated and I felt that excluding me for the reason that they gave was unjust."

Allred attacked Trump, who owns and controls the Miss Universe franchise, for questioning Talackova's sexuality.

"She did not ask Mr. Trump to prove that he is a naturally born man or to see photos of his birth to view his anatomy to prove that he was male," Allred said.

How she became a female is not important, she said.

"The Miss Universe competition is designed to find the one person in the world whose human qualities make them worthy of the Miss Universe crown and title," Allred said. "Jenna is beautiful in every way. Her life story will undoubtedly inspire people throughout the world."

Talackova, in a 2010 interview, said she knew she was a girl at age 4. She said she started hormone therapy at age 14 and underwent sexual reassignment surgery at 19.

Trump, warned of Allred's attack when the lawyer alerted reporters Monday afternoon that she would hold the news confer-

ence, shifted his pageant's position in an announcement Monday night.

Talackova could compete provided "she meets the legal gender recognition requirements of Canada, and the standards established by other international competitions," the Miss Universe Organization said.

Trump's maneuver didn't appear to temper Allred's outrage.

"The last-minute statement by Mr. Trump's representative put out late yesterday only confuses the issue," she said. "Instead of stating clearly that Jenna will be allowed to compete, Mr. Trump qualifies it by adding conditions that are ambiguous."

She asked Trump for "a clear answer—not a wimpy, wishy-washy type of answer—but something that we can take to the bank."

Allred didn't know it then, but Trump gave a clearer statement to CNN in New York two hours earlier.

"We went by the laws of Canada and the laws of the United States, and those laws say that she should be allowed to enter the pageant," Trump said. "So she will be entering the Miss Canada pageant."

Bumpy beauty pageants

Controversy over beauty pageant rules is not new for Donald Trump. The media stir over Miss California Carrie Prejean's same-sex marriage comments at Trump's Miss USA pageant three years ago raised the profile of that competition. Prejean, in response to a question from a judge, declared her opposition to same-sex marriage. Trump initially said Prejean could keep her Miss California title despite a controversy over topless photos, missed appearances and her statements against same-sex marriage. He eventually fired her for "contract violations," including missed public appearances. **CNN**

The Gloria Allred files

Allred has affected more than beauty contests. She hosted several news conferences in 2010 to reveal evidence that Meg Whitman, who was then the Republican nominee for governor of California, employed an undocumented worker. The October surprise hampered Whitman's campaign at a crucial time in her race against Jerry Brown, who won the election. **CNN**

Losing the lotto is a blessing



Doris Dadayan

» redeye@tribune.com

All I had were a dollar and a dream.

Last Friday, I bought me some Mega Millions tickets. I mean, once the jackpot reaches more than \$500 million, it's worth my time. Mama didn't raise no fool. Over half a billion dollars ... we're talking Oprah status here.

So that morning, I was on my knees

praying to Lucifer. I wore my "winning" tee with Charlie Sheen's face printed on it for good luck. I just needed to rub the nose of a famous statue to complete it all. Yep, big money, baby.

They say you are more likely to die on the way to buying the ticket—and get struck by lightning three times—than actually win Mega Millions. Huh. So I bought \$50 worth of tix figuring my odds should at least be better than getting hit by lightning! (Oddly enough, a Kansas man was struck by lightning just hours after buying three Mega Millions tickets, proving you really are more likely to be struck down than win the jackpot! But hey, now that that's out of the way, time for dude to win, right?)

So I'm back at work this morning (sucker), but lemme tell you, had I won, you sure as hell wouldn't be reading this. I'd be too busy buying a tiger and Matthew Fox. I would open 600 Chase accounts and buy Justin Bieber (how much does that kid cost, anyway?). Maybe even throw Kim Kardashian another wedding!

Actually, maybe it's better that I didn't win. Now I don't have to change my phone number. (I already have some people looking for me, plus mom FINALLY memorized my cell number!) I don't have to deal with friends begging for cash outside my house. I won't get calls from random teens claiming I'm their mom. I don't have to update my Facebook status to "I just won the lottery" and not be lying. I don't have to worry about being slain by family members (shut the blinds, huddle in a corner in the fetal position, do



not speak to anyone without an attorney). And ladies, we know no amount of money can turn a cute guy straight. (That just might be the worst one.)

So, who ordered the lotto McMess? Mirlande Wilson, who works at a McDonald's in Maryland, claims she holds one of the winning tickets. Well, on second thought—and after telling her confused co-workers that her "winning" ticket was from her personal stash and not from the batch she purchased with money pooled from employees—maybe she didn't win. "I don't know if I won. Some of the numbers were familiar. I recognized some of [them]," she told the New York Post. Talk about a Hamburglar.

The more I think about this whole Mega Millions deal, the more freaked out I get. Someone else really needs to handle all this money. Greed. Corruption. Who needs it?

But here's the thing: After crunching some numbers, it turns out my chances of winning the Mega Millions jackpot are STILL better than the Cubs winning the World Series this year. Dang. I can't have that hanging over my head. So, who's down for combining the Powerball with the Mega Millions into one super lottery?

DORIS DADAYAN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

'SHARE' THIS



If you haven't seen these five stories in your Facebook newsfeed this week, where have you been?



Judging Chicago's bars

Like its choices or not, complex.com put together a rather entertaining "douchiest" list of mostly Wrigleyville bars to avoid (or not). (And props to chicagoist.com for compiling a rebuttal list.)

Ryan Gosling to the rescue—again

Last year he broke up a fight. This week he saved a British journalist from a taxi barreling at her in Manhattan. Your move, Everyman.



LOS ANGELES TIMES



'13 Simple Steps to Get You Through a Rough Day'

Thanks for this list, buzzfeed.com. It really did turn my day around.

'I'm so beautiful Samantha'

In a breathy, Internet tell-all, Daily Mail U.K. writer Samantha Brick claims women hate her because she's just so beautiful. How original and barf-provoking!



Obama throws up the Vulcan salute

Haven't seen so many "I'm so proud of my president" status updates since the POTUS name-dropped HBO's "The Wire."

JESSICA GALLIART, REDEYE SOCIAL MEDIA LADY

COURTESY OF @REALNICHELLE

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FRIDAY
55³⁵
turn the



SATURDAY
63⁴⁰
heat back on?



Tribune Co. and DirecTV reached a deal Wednesday, ending a four-day WGN America blackout.



5700 block of South Woodlawn Avenue



Robie House, 5757 S. Woodlawn Ave.



Avalon/New Regal, 1645 E. 79 St.



Prentice Women's Hospital, 333 E. Superior St.

CHICAGO SEVEN

Group unveils list of endangered historic properties

Chicago Tribune

Three Chicago hospitals and a cluster of aging movie theaters topped a list of endangered historic properties released Wednesday by a Chicago preservation advocacy group.

The group, Preservation Chicago, each year announces its "Chicago Seven" list to draw attention to the plight of historic buildings and encourage property owners, city officials and citizens groups to save and reuse them. This year's roll of threatened buildings actually numbers far more than seven because it includes five movie theaters, several historic residences in the 5700 block of South Woodlawn Avenue, and six other buildings.



Cuneo Hospital, 720 W. Montrose Ave.



Ramova, 3518 S. Halsted St.



Portage, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS

THE DIGIT

\$6 million

That's the estimated street value of several

bundles of marijuana found early Wednesday inside a Gage Park home on the Southwest Side. Police also found more than \$5,000 in cash, a digital scale and an automated money counting machine, a police statement said. No one had been arrested but police were conducting an "ongoing investigation."

EXPRESS LINES

» Eight people in Illinois are among 90 nationwide who have been sickened by a salmonella outbreak, but a source of the cases has not been confirmed yet, state and federal health officials said Wednesday.

» A quick-thinking teller is being credited with stopping a robbery by telling a woman with a demand note that the Northwest Side bank was closed, the FBI says.

» DraftDay, a Chicago-based startup that makes an online platform for daily fantasy sports games, has raised just under \$1 million from local investment firm Lightbank, officials said. **TRIBUNE**

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chicago

Homicides from March 14 to 4 p.m.
Wednesday. All locations had one victim.

HOMICIDE TRACKER

By Tracy Swartz

TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM | @TRACYSWARTZ

Chicago ended the first quarter of 2012 last week with 118 homicides, the worst first quarter for homicides in nine years, a RedEye analysis of preliminary police data found.

The city recorded 50 homicides in March, up from 22 in March 2011, RedEye data shows.

Chicago also saw a 57 percent increase in homicides from January through March compared with last year, when 75 homicides were recorded in the first quarter.

The last time Chicago saw this many homicides in the first quarter was 2003, when 120 homicides were recorded, according to a 2008 Chicago Police Department report.

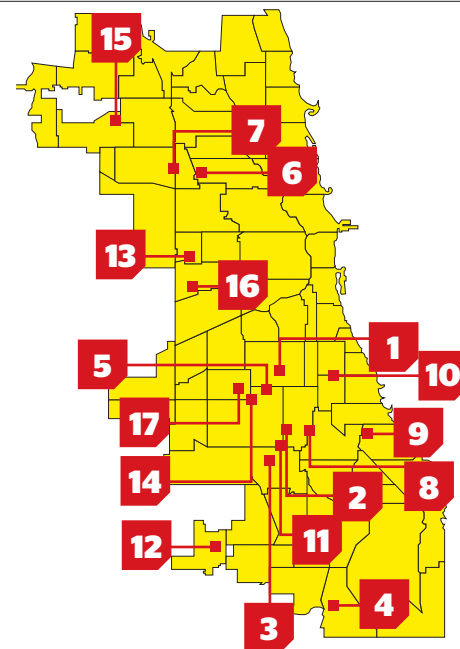
In the past two weeks, West Englewood and Woodlawn each saw three homicides, police data shows.

In Woodlawn, three men between the ages of 29 and 34 were shot and killed March 27 in the 6300 block of South Evans Avenue, police said.

In West Englewood, a 16-year-old boy was shot and killed March 26 in the 1400 block of West 73rd Street, police said. Two days earlier, a 46-year-old man was shot and killed in the 6200 block of South Honore Street, officials said. On March 22, a 39-year-old man was shot and killed in the 5500 block of South Bishop Street, police said.

Meanwhile, Auburn Gresham and Chicago Lawn each saw two homicides in the past two weeks.

In Chicago Lawn, a 49-year-old man was



shot and killed Monday in the 6100 block of South Washtenaw Avenue, police said. Four days earlier, a 68-year-old man was strangled in the 6300 block of South Campbell Avenue, officials said.

In Auburn Gresham, a 22-year-old man was shot to death March 29 in the 1400 block of West 79th Street, police said. Six days earlier, a 23-year-old man was stabbed to death in the 8100 block of South Paulina Street, officials said.

Citywide, gunshot homicides were recorded in the last two weeks in Belmont Cragin, Englewood, Hermosa, Riverdale, Roseland, South Lawndale and South Shore, RedEye data shows.

Meanwhile, on March 29, Dunning and North Lawndale each saw a stabbing homicide, officials said.

Two homicides have been recorded so far this month. Thirty homicides were logged in April 2011, according to RedEye data.

- | | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|--|
| 1 | 5500 BLOCK OF S. BISHOP ST.
Date: March 22 Cause: Gunshot | 10 | 6300 BLOCK OF S. EVANS AVE.
Date: March 27 Cause: Gunshot |
| 2 | 500 BLOCK OF W. 75TH ST.
Date: March 23 Cause: Gunshot | 11 | 1400 BLOCK OF W. 79TH ST.
Date: March 29 Cause: Gunshot |
| 3 | 8100 BLOCK OF S. PAULINA ST.
Date: March 23 Cause: Stabbing | 12 | 0 BLOCK OF W. 113TH PL.
Date: March 29 Cause: Assault |
| 4 | 13300 BLOCK OF S. INDIANA AVE.
Date: March 24 Cause: Gunshot | 13 | 1300 BLOCK OF S. KILDARE AVE.
Date: March 29 Cause: Stabbing |
| 5 | 6200 BLOCK OF S. HONORE ST.
Date: March 24 Cause: Gunshot | 14 | 6300 BLOCK OF S. CAMPBELL AVE.
Date: March 29 Cause: Strangulation |
| 6 | 4200 BLOCK OF W. CORTLAND ST.
Date: March 25 Cause: Gunshot | 15 | 3800 BLOCK OF N. NORMANDY AVE.
Date: March 29 Cause: Stabbing |
| 7 | 2200 BLOCK OF N. LAVERGNE AVE.
Date: March 25 Cause: Gunshot | 16 | 2600 BLOCK OF S. TRIPP AVE.
Date: April 1 Cause: Gunshot |
| 8 | 1400 BLOCK OF W. 73RD ST.
Date: March 26 Cause: Gunshot | 17 | 6100 BLOCK OF S. WASHTENAW AVE.
Date: April 2 Cause: Gunshot |
| 9 | 1400 BLOCK OF E. 75TH ST.
Date: March 27 Cause: Gunshot | | |

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Activist priest: Third incident at parish

Chicago Tribune

The Rev. Michael Pfleger, the activist pastor of St. Sabina Church on the South Side, said he believes someone was “trying to send a message” by tying a shirt to the door of a parish building and setting it on fire overnight.

Pfleger, known for his campaign against gangs and drugs, said it's the third time something has been nailed to the door of a parish building recently. In one previous incident, it was a bag of excrement.

“This time they set a fire, so it's my presumption that someone is trying to send a message,” Pfleger said Wednesday morning, about an hour after authorities alerted him to the small fire. “I'm not quite sure what [the message] is but ... it's their third time, they've stepped up a little notch.”

The fire was spotted around 2:15 a.m. at the parish's youth community center and gymnasium in the 7800 block of South Racine Avenue, according to police. Police said it didn't cause any major damage and they were investigating the incident as an attempted arson.

Pfleger said an officer at the scene told him it was possible that the same person was responsible for all three incidents.

The controversial Roman Catholic priest



Rev. Michael Pfleger addressed the media Wednesday morning after someone set fire to a shirt that was tied to the door of a church building. **WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE**

has taken to the pulpit and the streets to fight gun violence and drugs in the gang-ravaged community around St. Sabina.

Just this week, Pfleger and other community members called on the city to close a convenience store where six people were shot last week, including the nephew of the Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade. Pfleger contended that

such stores allow gang members to hang out there and use the stores as their “field offices.”

Pfleger, who also serves as temporary administrator of St. Margaret of Scotland Church at 99th and Throop streets, said he would press on against gangs and drugs. “If it's connected to [my activities], so be it,” he said.

Police reported no arrests.

City grants protest permit

Chicago on Wednesday granted a parade permit to the Coalition Against NATO/G8 War and Poverty Agenda that will begin at the city's preferred location—outside the Loop—but will venture into the busy State Street corridor before heading south to McCormick Place convention center where world leaders will hold their meetings.

Blue Line service disrupted

Service on the Blue Line was temporarily shut down for almost a half-hour during the evening rush Wednesday, officials said. The shut-down in both directions between the O'Hare and Rosemont stops was put in place about 5 p.m. due to fire department activity nearby, according to the CTA website. Service resumed shortly thereafter.

Freeze on the way?

Flowers and trees have sprouted early this year because of record warm temperatures, but all that greenery could be threatened by freezing temperatures expected late this week. The National Weather Service has issued a freeze watch for the entire Chicago area from Thursday night until Friday afternoon. **TRIBUNE**

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1 After the twister

Mike Enochs (left) and Gary Enochs salvage a baby crib from Mike Enochs' destroyed home Wednesday in Forney, Texas. There were no reports of deaths the day after six to 13 tornadoes swept through the Dallas area. **GETTY IMAGES**



2 Rabbit at rest

Rabbit foundling Ruediger sleeps on the hand of a keeper Wednesday at the zoo in Muenster, Germany. Ruediger and his sister, Kaline, were found in a dung pile at the zoo and now are being brought up by keepers. **GETTY IMAGES**



3 Hangin' with Will and Kate

A young girl poses with waxwork models of William and Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, on Wednesday at Madame Tussauds in Amsterdam. Simultaneous images of them are being unveiled at Madame Tussauds in London and New York. **REUTERS**

Web trolls on defensive

4 Bloggers this week pounced on an Arizona cyberbullying bill, comparing the legislation to online censorship efforts in Syria and China and saying lawmakers in the state fundamentally don't understand the Internet.

"Trolling could get you 25 years in jail in Arizona," declared a headline on Gizmodo.

The fear is that the bill would prohibit hateful comments on news and social media sites, amounting to a ban on so-called Internet trolling.

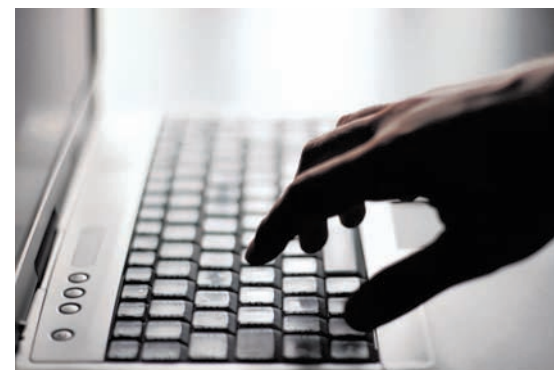
The problem: The bill won't do any of that, its sponsor told CNN on Wednesday.

"I think they're absolutely mistaken," Arizona Rep. Ted Vogt said of bloggers and civil liberties groups that said the bill would censor the Internet. "They clearly haven't read the bill. This law targets a course of conduct where an individual is harassing, threatening or annoying a specific [person]."

Observers said that language was overly broad and could be applied to censor the comments sections of websites and other public digital forums.

The bill will not apply to online comment sections or semi-public forums such as Facebook walls, Vogt said.

"With Facebook, you've got control over who your friends are," he said. "So if somebody is threatening you and you never de-friend them, then you're not controlling it. You're inviting people to comment freely on your Facebook page. You can de-friend them and you can end the problem there."



THE EXACT LANGUAGE

Here's the paragraph in the bill that got everyone riled up: "It is unlawful for any person, with intent to terrify, intimidate, threaten, harass, annoy or offend, to use any electronic or digital device and use any obscene, lewd or profane language or suggest any lewd or lascivious act, or threaten to inflict physical harm to the person or property of any person. It is also unlawful to otherwise disturb by repeated anonymous electronic or digital communications the peace, quiet or right of privacy of any person at the place where the communications were received."

5 5 ex-cops get prison in post-Katrina shootings

A federal judge on Wednesday sentenced five former New Orleans police officers to prison terms ranging from six to 65 years for the shootings of unarmed civilians in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, prosecutors said. The ex-officers were convicted in August on a combined 25 counts of civil rights violations.

6 France expands extremist fight

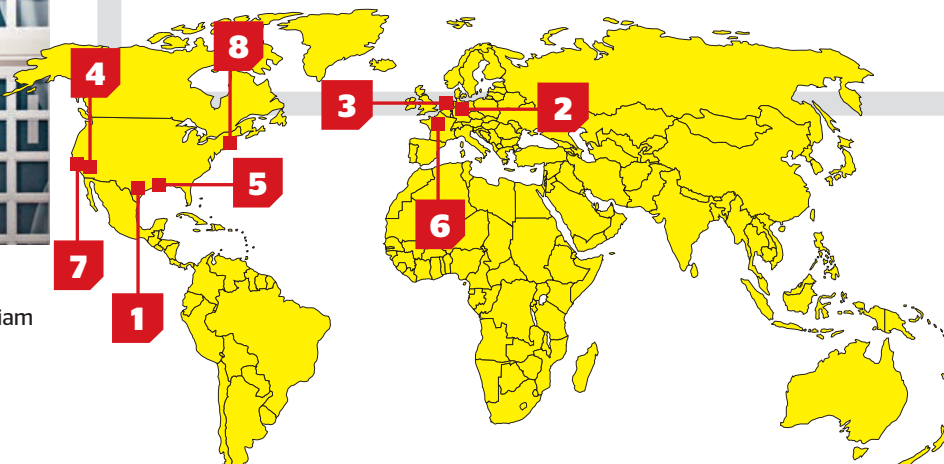
Ten suspected Islamists were arrested in fresh raids across France on Wednesday morning as the country widens a clampdown on suspected extremists after a deadly shooting spree last month, the Interior Ministry said. Meanwhile, 13 alleged radicals arrested Friday were placed under formal investigation.

7 Alleged college gunman arraigned

Authorities identified Wednesday six of the seven people who were gunned down in a California religious college this week. Meanwhile, the man accused in the mass killings in the Oakland college—from which he had been expelled—was scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday on charges of murder and kidnapping.

8 Judges hear challenge to Marriage Act

Lawyers representing five same-gender couples are suing the federal government over the Defense of Marriage Act, which they say unfairly denies same-sex married couples the right to sponsor their noncitizen spouses for permanent residency in the U.S. Arguments began before judges Wednesday in Boston.



THE DIGIT

2,000

Yahoo said Wednesday that it will eliminate 2,000 employees, around 14 percent of its workforce, as new CEO Scott Thompson begins radically streamlining the company.

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Ballpark upgrades

Another Opening Day brings with it another round of changes—some subtle, others not so much—at Wrigley Field and U.S. Cellular Field. Here's a look at what's new for fans. **TRIBUNE**

New patio at Wrigley

Wrigley Field will have a new patio area in the right-field bleachers that can seat up to 150 people. It is supposed to give fans a rooftop experience inside the park.

New Cell shopping

Bring money. Fans will be able to shop at the 12,000-square-foot Chicago Sports Depot, which offers Sox and other Chicago sports merchandise, near Gate 5. The Nike Dugout Shop and the Red Jacket store, which features White Sox vintage threads, will be inside the stadium.

New suite at Wrigley

Wrigley will offer a game-day rental Audi Legends Suite along the first-base side for up to 14 people, who will receive a visit and some autographed bounty from a former player—anyone from Ernie Banks to Dave Otto.

More Cell drinking

The Miller Lite Bullpen Sports Bar will open 2 ½ hours before first pitch for Thursday through Sunday games, an hour earlier than in the past.

New food at the Cell

There are 11 new menu items on levels 100 through 500. They include the Balkan Dog, which is a combo of pork, beef, lamb, red pepper and eggplant sauce on pita bread. This year, nachos and ice cream will be served in souvenir helmets.

New food at Wrigley

Several new items are on tap through Levy Restaurants, including the Meatball Mania (beef, chicken and Thai pork meatballs on a skewer), Sloppy Janes (a vegan version of a Sloppy Joe) and bison products.

See Page 18 for more food



Cubs fan and Red Ivy manager Dave Hawse
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

STILL LOVABLE?

CUBS MAY HAVE WORK CUT OUT TO WIN BACK FANS

By Mick Swasko

REDEYE

It's been 103 years since the Cubs called themselves World Series champions, and more than a half-century since they've even contended in the Fall Classic.

As the sentiment shifted from "this is the year" to "maybe next year" last season—one that saw 91 losses overall and way more losses than wins by July—something remarkable happened. A reliably

and historically packed ballpark, even in the worst of times, began to see empty seats and gaps in the bleachers. Fans weren't just leaving after beer sales ceased, they were simply not showing up at all.

But Cubs fans say there are glimmers of hope this season, which kicks off with the home opener Thursday against Washington, even as experts and analysts predict the team will be one of the worst in the league.

For one thing, a new president of baseball operations, Theo Epstein—who, as the youngest general manager in the history of baseball, broke the Boston Red Sox's World Series drought—represents a new chapter for the team. For another, investment in younger players such as Starlin Castro, who stand a chance at becoming breakout

stars, is giving some fans reasons to hope.

"I think last year kind of drew the line for us Cubs fans," said Zack Serceo, 25, of Garfield Ridge. "We were sick and tired of being losers. It's time to take up that Sox fans' motto: 'What have you done for me lately?'"

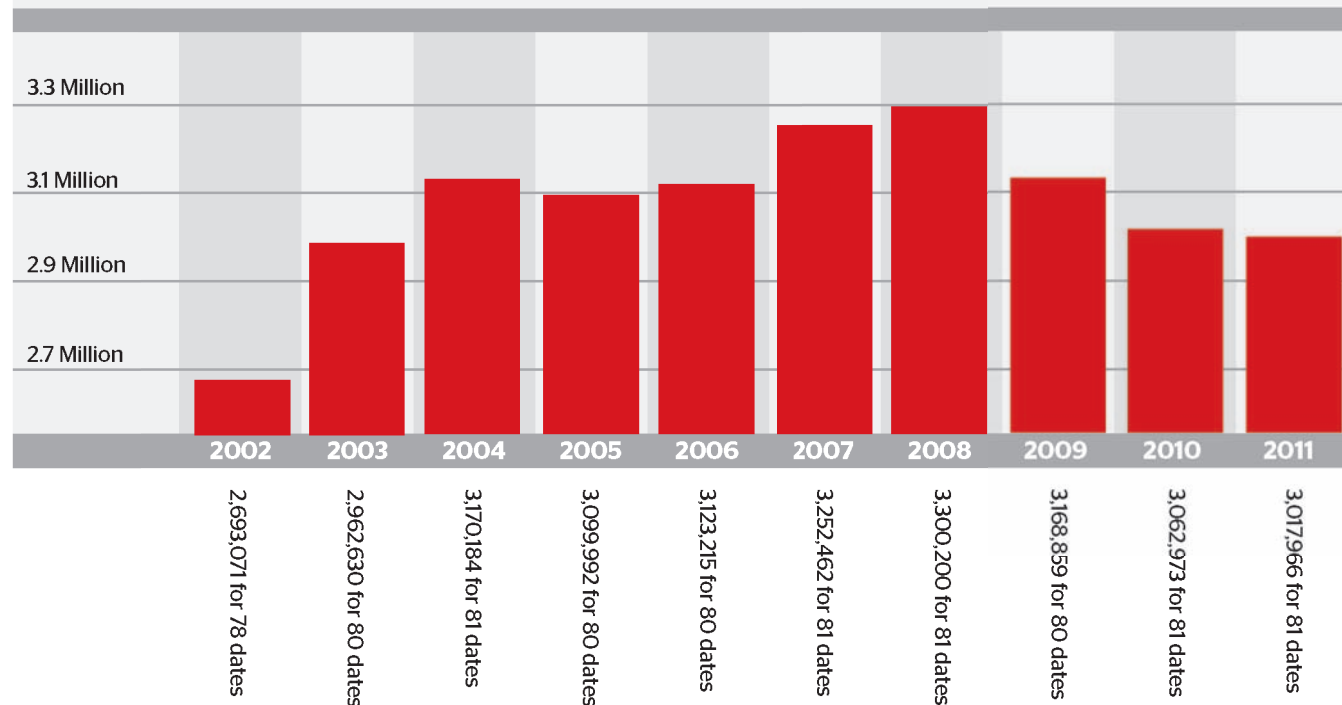
Last season was a reckoning of sorts, Serceo said, when even the most dedicated Cubs fans began to have enough. He didn't attend a single game in 2011, when the idea of a packed stadium during a terrible run went from being a point of pride to being a badge of shame.

The numbers reflect that sentiment.

Total attendance in 2011 was down 1.5 percent compared with the previous year, at 3,017,966. The average daily attendance dropped by 555, and

GOING TO THE GAME

Attendance at Wrigley Field during the past 10 years.
SOURCE: Cubs



that's not accounting for no-shows, which the club tracks but does not release. But Serceo said he'll be back this year, if only for the hope that new leadership will lead to more exciting games at Wrigley.

"Just win, play hard and win baseball games," Serceo said. "Finally be that team that steps up and says, 'We're not going to let [the opponent] win.'"

Heather Manning, a 33-year-old season ticket-holder from Wicker Park, is a realist about the season.

"You have to be an eternal optimist as a Cubs fan," she said. "This year I feel like the optimism is a little more realistic. I think a lot of it is going to come down to individual performance." If the team wins more games than it loses, that's enough reason for her to watch.

Manning has seen it all, having attended about 10 games a year during the past seven years. She saw the team clinch the division in 2007. She also sat about 30 rows away from fan Steve Bartman as he wrote himself into the pages of Cubs history in 2003. That was the year Bartman infamously reached for a ball that could have been caught by left fielder Moises Alou, derailing the inning and—in hindsight, for many fans—marking the beginning of the end for the team's World Series hopes.

But 2012 is not 2003.



Cubs fan Heather Manning
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

Dave Hawse hopes the team can hold the interest of fans, both as a loyalist himself and a bar general manager blocks from Wrigley. The 32-year-old from the Gold

Coast manages Red Ivy, which last year saw less business as a result of what he said was a decreased interest in the team.

"Our business revolves around the Cubs, it revolves around Wrigley Field," he said. "We want consistency throughout the whole season."

As a fan, there's a simple way the Cubs can keep up interest, he said. He's seen it in Spring Training already: "The team just needs to make the games enjoyable to watch and at least look like they are trying."

"I can understand if the Cubs lose because they are out-hit or out-pitched," he said. "But not out-hustled."

With Opening Day here, Manning's expectations aren't high. She feels last year was rock bottom for the North Siders, and she doesn't expect to see as many empty seats. It's a rebuilding year, and while she doesn't expect overwhelming success, there's reason to watch.

"I don't think this year is going to be awesome, I really don't," she said. "But you have to look for signs of life, and any real fan is going to look for that. You're going to want to be there for that. I think things are good. Do I think this is the year? No. Do I think this is the decade? Yes.

"I hope."

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'89 Cubs & the disease of hope



John Dooley

» chicagonow.com/chicago-tough
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Somewhere in a Chicago convenience store, a Cubs fan is thumbing through the pages of a baseball preview.

The prospects for this year look bleak. A cast of has-beens and could've-beens and probably-won'ts fill the Cubs' roster page. The projection shows fourth in the NL Central. The

overall preview is depressing.

Unfortunately for him, this fan carries a life-threatening disease.

It's called "The Disease of '89," an improbable case of hope that plagues every Cubs fan, but especially those older than 30.

No matter what the projection shows, no matter where the players came from, no matter what little ray of hope exists, this group of hopeless Cubs fans clings to the hope of '89.

The '89 Cubs were projected to finish last in every major publication. The '89 Cubs were a lost cause, a dysfunctional group that many thought could lose 100 games.

They would need more than 10 things to go their way. More than 10 would happen.

Greg Maddux needed to duplicate his 18-win performance from '88. He won 19. Rick Sutcliffe, injury-prone since '84, won 16. Mike Bielecki, a castoff from Pittsburgh, won 18 games. Steve Wilson and Les Lancaster decided to have their best seasons in the bullpen. Mitch Williams, the wild lefty from Texas, got 36 saves. Ryne Sandberg developed a sudden surge of power by cracking 30 home runs. Rookies played like veterans: Jerome Walton hit .293. Dwight Smith hit .324. Lloyd McClendon hit 12 home runs and batted .286 while playing multiple positions. Mark Grace topped his '88 campaign by hitting .314.

It was worth 93 wins in the most improbable, ridiculous, mind-numbing way. It defied common sense, and it would kill Cubdom for years.

1989 taught us that anything can happen.

When we look at this year's preview, we think quietly: What if Bryan LaHair is the answer? I hear David DeJesus' swing looked good in Arizona. Kerry Wood and Paul Maholm are due for solid seasons. I think this is the year Starlin Castro goes from good to great.

Just like that, I'm sucked in. Hope is a terrible drug.

JOHN DOOLEY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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Vince Lifonti
@chicagovince
Guest reader

TEXT: 5

1 Opening Day for Chicago baseball is like ...

... ice cream. It turns into mush the warmer it gets.

... hitting the restart button on the Optimism Machine. Which, uh, totally lasts all year.

... getting a new puppy: full of excitement—until it craps on the rug for the first time.

... going on vacation for six months to a mediocre resort with no parking.

... the first day of school. You're excited at first, but by the third month, you can't wait for it to end.

2 What's your prediction for the Cubs this season?

Theo Epstein introduces savormetrics. Better watch out, Wrigley food vendors.

They're going to shock the world: Tied for third place.

They're going to suck. But at least they'll be sucking in the right direction?

Win 70 games despite having the talent to win 90.

Pitchers will ask to go on the DL just to get better run support.

3 What would it mean if Derrick Rose and Jonathan Toews return the same night?

Plenty of concussions—from people fainting across the city.

We're only one puzzle piece away from solving the "Da Vinci Code." Still relevant, right?

Things are about to get real serious in Chicago.

A reverse sign of the apocalypse. It will balance out Snooki's pregnancy.

We'd celebrate it every year as the day our saviors ascended from the DL.

4 What would your new Bears uniform include?

For daddy-to-be Jay Cutler's sake, they'd better be resistant to spit-up.

Mirrors and pictures of cash registers. Consider opponents permanently distracted.

Bubble wrap for Jay Cutler.

Jet pack. Rocket boots. Flubber.

Looser necks holes to avoid choking at the end of the season.

5 If Tiger Woods were to win The Masters, what could we conclude?

Score one for massive doses of painkillers!

More importantly: What makes it a tradition unlike any other? Does every hole end with a dance-off?

That I will still care about golf as much as I do now—not at all.

He's back! ... to banging anonymous ladies on the tour.

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WHAT TO EAT

WRIGLEY FIELD

Fan favorite: Hot dogs are the biggest ballpark seller, said Burns, who added that at least 10 vendors plan to sell them open-faced rather than wrapped up in wax paper this year to make adding your own toppings easier. The 2-pound Big Slugger Nachos (\$15), sold in a souvenir Cubs batting helmet at multiple spots (including Big Dogs, located near the bleacher section), are another popular pick.



Notable new nosh: This season, meat lovers can munch on Meatball Mania (\$15), a skewer with two each of beef, chicken and pork soy-and-ginger-seasoned meatballs, sold at Italian Hot Spot (section 112-115).

Most gluttonous grub:

Your pants had better be ready for a seventh-inning stretch if you plan on ordering the loaded tater tots topped with hot sauce, jack cheese, sour cream and onions (\$6). Grab some at Big Dogs or The Works (section 121-123).

Healthy option:

Sheffield Grill, a fast-casual eatery near right field, is debuting the vegan Sloppy Jane sandwich (\$8), made with tempeh and served on an egg- and butter-free roll. Other light fare includes the veggie chop salad (\$6.50), with asparagus, garbanzo beans and broccoli, sold at Italian Hot Spot, the Blue W (section 122-125 and 133-134) and Big Hits (bleachers concourse area).

Clean sweep sweet:

Wrap up your ballpark binge with strawberry cheesecake or cookies-and-cream-flavored frozen custard from the Concrete cart located on the second-level ramp on the left field side of the park.

AT CUBS AND SOX GAMES

By Erin Brereton

FOR REDEYE

Opening Day is here, baseball fans. On Thursday, Wrigley Field's executive chef, David Burns, who previously worked at local restaurants Le Bouchon and La Sardine, kicks off his seventh season designing the concession menus for the Cubs' home base. On April 13, U.S. Cellular Field's executive chef, Olegario Soto, a former Spiaggia sous chef, will start his eighth season with the Sox. We polled both chefs on fan favorites as well as what's new to their game-day menus this season. Read on to see what snacks are worth leaving your seat to sample.

ERIN BRERETON IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

U.S. CELLULAR FIELD

Fan favorite: Burgers are "always No. 1" at the ballpark, Soto said. Stop by the 300 level's condiment bar to top your pretzel bun-clad mushroom-bacon burger (\$10.95) with smoked-onion mustard, giardiniera or sport peppers.

Notable new nosh:

Sox fans also can sink their teeth into a pork-and-beef burger seasoned with ginger and soy sauce (\$10.95); pair it a Blue Moon draft, a new addition to the beer offerings this season.

Healthy option:

Every month, a different salad—such as the chicken-and-bacon chop salad with honey dijon vinaigrette (\$8.95)—will be available, along with a fruit cup (\$8.50) that includes mango, watermelon and other seasonal treats.

Clean sweep sweet: The ballpark also serves a south-of-the-border snack called ice cream nachos (\$8.95), deep-fried flour tortilla triangles sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar, topped with vanilla ice cream and maraschino cherries and drizzled with caramel and chocolate.

BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE



Most gluttonous grub: The monstrous Victory Knot pretzel (\$15.95), served in a pizza box with chipotle cheese spread, sweet cream cheese icing and a cheese dip made with pale ale beer, isn't officially on the menu this year; however, Soto said the 300 level concessions area will prepare the pretzel upon request.

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Waiting for the gates to open on Opening Day in 2011

TRIBUNE FILE

- 1** Who was the last Cubs Opening Day starter at Wrigley Field before Ryan Dempster and Carlos Zambrano?
A. Kerry Wood in 2004.
B. Jon Lieber in 2001.
C. Mark Prior in 2002.
D. Steve Trachsel in 1999.
- 2** Who was the last White Sox starter before Mark Buehrle to win an actual Opening Day at home?
A. Davis Wells in 2002.
B. Jack McDowell in 1993.
C. Ricky Horton in 1988.
D. LaMarr Hoyt in 1984.
- 3** How many of last year's starting 10 players for the White Sox will not be in this year's lineup?
A. 2.
B. 3.
C. 4.
D. 5.
- 4** How many of last year's starting nine for the Cubs will not be in this year's lineup?
A. 1.
B. 3.
C. 4.
D. 5.
- 5** Which of these Cubs pitchers has made the most Opening Day starts?
A. Carlos Zambrano.
B. Charlie Root.
C. Fergie Jenkins.
D. Rick Sutcliffe.
- 6** What announcer appeared in the most Opening Day lineups for the Cubs and/or White Sox?
A. Steve Stone.
B. Keith Moreland.
C. Darrin Jackson.
D. Ed Farmer.
- 7** Which rookie manager, the White Sox's Robin Ventura or the Cubs' Dale Sveum, made more Opening Day starts?
A. Ventura.
B. Sveum.
- 8** Since 1940, which White Sox player has the most home runs on Opening Day?
A. Jim Thome.
B. Paul Konerko.
C. Frank Thomas.
D. Carlton Fisk.
- 9** The White Sox are the current major league record-holders for most consecutive Opening Days on the road. Can you name the number?
A. 8.
B. 10.
C. 14.
D. 16.
- 10** Both Chicago teams have records above .500 on Opening Day. Which team has won more, the Cubs or White Sox?
A. Cubs.
B. White Sox.



ANSWERS

- 1. B.**
- 2. C.**
- 3. B.** Juan Pierre, Carlos Quentin and Mark Buehrle are gone.
- 4. B.** Gone from the team are Kosuke Fukudome, Aramis Ramirez and Carlos Pena.
- 5. C.**
- 6. B.** 76-60-2 and the Sox are 58-53.
- 7. A.**
- 8. A.**
- 9. C.**

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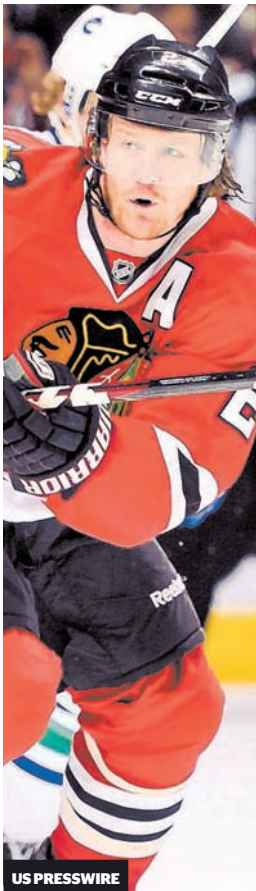
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Here & gone

What players are in or out for Thursday's games?

RedEye

There have been a lot of injuries, suspensions and absences in Chicago sports for one reason or another in recent days and weeks. Here's a scorecard on the status of some of the players involved.



US PRESSWIRE

IN

Duncan Keith

He'll return from suspension Thursday when the Blackhawks visit Minnesota.



CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

OUT

Jonathan Toews

The injured Blackhawks captain is traveling with the team but not playing Thursday.

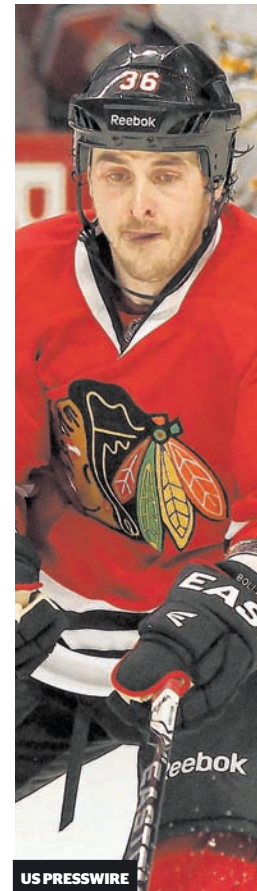


NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE

IN

Richard Hamilton

The Bulls guard returned to action Monday night in the team's loss to Houston.



US PRESSWIRE

OUT

Dave Bolland

He's out Thursday with an upper-body injury, according to Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville.



NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE

?

Derrick Rose

He's been practicing, but his status for Thursday night's game against Boston is a mystery.



The Olympics of lame

"American Idol" host and all-around annoying Hollywood figure Ryan Seacrest announced Wednesday on the "Today" show that he will be part of NBC's prime-time Olympics coverage. Unfortunately, America, you cannot call in and vote to have him sent home. London calling ...



That's such a Packers move

You know those new Nike NFL jerseys everyone's excited about and can't wait to see in action this fall? Green Bay isn't going to use them. "The Green Bay Packers have chosen to stay with their traditional design aesthetic as well as their former uniform fabrication for the coming season," nike.com's page for the Packers reads. Cheeseheads.

THE DIGIT

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Bring that much to the table, and you can buy former L.A. Lakers player Sasha Vujacic's house in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

THE FINISH LINE

» White Sox 5, Houston 5

» San Antonio 2, Wolves 1

» Ohio State forward Jared Sullinger will enter the NBA draft.

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nightlife

**Cape Suzette at
The Barrelhouse Flat**
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

A CLASSIER pregame

Your stomach may thank you if you start paying attention to aperitifs

By Emily Van Zandt

REDEYE

Put down that lager, that pour of merlot or that heavy craft cocktail. If you haven't eaten yet, you might be treading dangerously close to doing what your mother warned you about: You're going to ruin your supper.

Instead, bartenders suggest reaching for something a little lighter to stimulate the appetite, rather than drown it out. Enter the aperitif, a French term for a light drink served before a meal.

"Typically the flavors range from bitter, [to] dry or acidic," explains Stephen Cole, owner and bartender at Lincoln Park's The Barrelhouse Flat. "You want to go with a flavor profile on the bitter side. Bubbles, as in sparkling wines, do the trick as well."

Those colorful bottles of Aperol, Campari, Cocchi Americano, Lillet or Dolin seen gracing the back shelves and drink lists of cocktail bars around Chicago? Served over ice, perhaps with a little soda and a twist of citrus, they're all traditional aperitifs (or for the Italian brands, they're called aperitivos). But few Chicagoans are bellying up to the bar to order them in such a simple form.

"It's more of a European thing," says Tim Lacey, bar manager at Ada Street, a recently opened bar on the border of Bucktown and Lincoln Park. "I think in general we just haven't been exposed to them in this country."

Instead, most drinkers are used to seeing the spirits served in classic and modern craft cocktails, which also make decent options to start a meal.

"There's always the negroni [a mix of Campari, gin and sweet vermouth]," Lacey says. "I really dig its forerunner, the Americano [traditionally Campari, sweet vermouth and soda water]."

For an aperitif at his bar, Cole recommends the Cape Suzette—scotch and rum drink made with Aperol—but anything with absinthe, Cocchi Americano or Dolin's dry vermouth will do. For Lacey, the best starter is a pour of sparkling wine.

"With wine, you're looking for something high in acid to get your mouth watering—either the Bouillot sparkling rosé or the Vilar-nau brut cava," Lacey says.

If you're looking for a cocktail to start your night at Ada Street, Lacey recommends the Falling in Love Again, a mix of riesling, Imbue (a vermouth made in Portland) and lemon juice.

Aperitifs' after-dinner counterpart, the digestif, is having a moment in the Chicago cocktail scene as well, with amaro-based cocktails are being played up at spots such as RPM Italian in River North and The Purple



Tim Lacey
BARRY BRECHEISEN PHOTO
FOR REDEYE

“It’s more of a European thing. I think in general we just haven’t been exposed to them in this country.”

—Tim Lacey, bar manager at Ada Street, on aperitifs

Pig on the Mag Mile. Recently opened Lincoln Park restaurant Balena features a cocktail list with Italian aperitifs and digestivos.

“[Digestifs or digestivos] are meant to aid in digestion ... they tend to have more intense, darker flavors,” Lacey says. “Something like Fernet Branca is more complex and bitter. It tastes, and I say this as someone who genuinely loves it, like menthol and dirt. In the best possible way.”

While Cole does occasionally see customers ordering an aperitif on the rocks, it’s a trend that hasn’t caught on just yet—but give it some time.

“With the cocktail trend in the states coming back over the last 20 years, our customers have the ability to venture out a little more and they’re starting to realize all the new interesting products that are available to them.”

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This Old Town pub was the place to be on a recent Friday night, with a line snaking outside the door and a lively crowd packed inside. **BY CRAIG SEYMOUR, FOR REDEYE**



Benjamin Stevenson

40, works in human resources

What brought you out tonight?

I heard that they had a great selection of beers. I wanted to bring some colleagues from work, as well as one of my best friends. And, wow, what an amazing place it turned out to be.

What's your best advice, from an H.R. perspective?

My motto is "Live your life like it's golden," because the reason we work is to do the things in life that we really want to do.



Ryan Smith 26, banker

What brings you out tonight?
I'm celebrating my birthday.

What did you learn about life last year?
I just moved to Chicago [from Pittsburgh] last year, so [I learned to] just go with the flow.



Megan Kucera 23, works in banking

What brought you here tonight?
I heard about the 90 beers on tap. I knew it was a new spot. I wanted to check out the scene.

What do people in banking generally drink? Whatever will give you the biggest bang for your buck.

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41 years of frozen margarita goodness

Dallas Morning News

He may not have created the first margarita, but Mariano Martinez transformed the drink from a border cantina concoction to the nation's most popular alcoholic beverage with his invention in Dallas of the frozen margarita machine.

Forty-one years later, Martinez's invention has increased U.S. demand for tequila and contributed to the widespread popularity of Tex-Mex cuisine.

It was 1971, and he was a 26-year-old Dallas restaurateur whose dream of operating his own Mexican restaurant was melting before his eyes. Martinez couldn't master the icy consistency of frozen margaritas, much to the dismay of his customers.

With his business on the rocks and facing a coup from his bartenders, who complained the slushy concoctions were too time-consuming and complicated to make, Martinez was desperately searching for a remedy.

"I had a sleepless night and the next day, I stopped to get a cup of coffee at a 7-Eleven and I saw that Slurpee machine," Martinez said. "The entire concept hit me at one time."

An inspired Martinez retrofitted an old

soft-serve machine and, using his father's margarita recipe, streamlined the production of what has become America's most-ordered alcoholic beverage.

Happy hour would never be the same. The drink was an instant success and attracted people from across the state who wanted to sample Martinez's slushy creation.

"If it hadn't been for that machine, I wouldn't be here today," he said. "That machine allowed me to stay in business for the last 40 years."

The invention saved Martinez's restaurant and also jump-started the U.S. demand for tequila as knock-off machines spread to mom-and-pop and chain restaurants.

The popularity of the drink only increased with the introduction of the frozen margarita machine, which produced a consistent beverage. It became so popular that in 2006, the margarita surpassed the martini as the most-ordered alcoholic beverage, representing 17 percent of all mixed-drink sales, according to Brown-Forman, one of the largest American-owned spirits and wine companies.

Americans drink an average of 185,000 margaritas every hour, Brown-Forman says.



GETTY IMAGES

Over time, America's taste for tequila has become more refined; demand for top-shelf tequila has reached an all-time high. The biggest boom is in the super-premium category, which has seen imports increase 336 percent

since 2002, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States.

"We are past the days of slamming down tequila," Martinez said. "We are in an era of 100 percent agave tequila."

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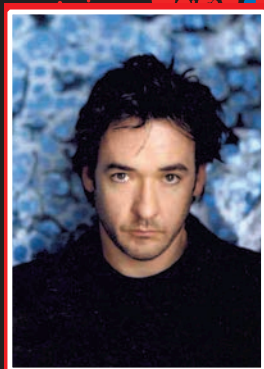
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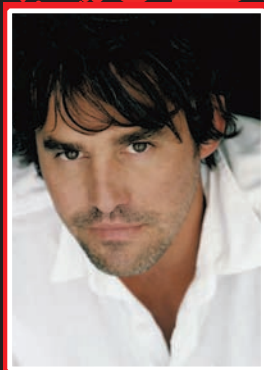
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Talk to the Han

You'll need the Force—and dancing shoes—for 'Star Wars Kinect'

By Ryan Smith | FOR REDEYE

What would happen if "Star Wars" had fewer lightsaber battles and more dance-offs? "Star Wars Kinect," a new video game released this week for Xbox 360, finally answers that question. The game features a "Galactic Dance-Off" mode in which a player mimics the choreography of a character from the beloved sci-fi films as he or she busts a move to pop songs that have been re-worked to include "Star Wars"-centric lyrics. A remix of Jason Derulo's "Ridin' Solo" is called "I'm Han Solo," while an animated Harrison Ford doppelganger frolics like an overexcited teenager on prom night. Some hard-core "Star Wars" fans have taken to the Internet to complain that watching Stormtroopers gyrate to a Village People cover is "ruining their childhood," but are the nerds overreacting? RedEye investigates. **RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**

1 Princess in a Battle



in the style of "Genie in a Bottle" by Christina Aguilera
SCENE: Various dancers are

brought into Jabba the Hutt's lair to entertain the bloblike gangster boss while gold bikini-clad Princess Leia looks on. Midway through the song, Leia removes her shackles and challenges you to a sexy dance-off. If you boogie well enough, Jabba purrs that "it pleases me."

LYRICS: "If you want to be with me/ Solo, there's a price to pay/ I'm a princess in a battle/ You gotta join the Rebel Way"

SAMPLE DANCE MOVE: The Mind Trick

VERDICT: Gyrate for the leering Jabba the Hutt is kind of creepy, but the song totally works and is fun to dance to.

I'm Han Solo



in the style of "Ridin' Solo" by Jason Derulo

SCENE: Cloud City has inexplicably turned

into a hot nightclub with a DJ. After Han Solo escapes from his carbonite prison, he takes to the dance floor with Empire officers while a dashing Lando Calrissian eventually butts in and takes the spotlight

LYRICS: "I'm picking up my blaster/ put it on my side/ I'm jumpin' in my Falcon/ Wookie at my side/ I'm solo, I'm Han Solo, I'm Han Solo"

SAMPLE DANCE MOVE: The Chewie Hug

VERDICT: Lando and Han are the coolest cats in the "Star Wars" universe and have the moxie to pull this routine off. Plus, the Derulo cover is incredibly catchy.

2 Empire Today



in the style of "Y.M.C.A." by the Village People

SCENE: You walk into what appears to be

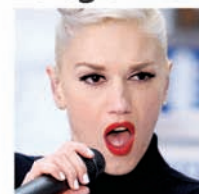
an Empire-controlled bar with stormtroopers everywhere. As R2D2 and C-3PO look on, bounty hunter Boba Fett cuts in on the party and manages to look limber on the dance floor despite the full body armor.

LYRICS: "It's conscription/ but I'm sure you will find many ways to have a good time"

SAMPLE DANCE MOVE: The Speeder

VERDICT: Badass Boba Fett going disco is amusing, but the cheesy lyrics to "Empire Today" are a bit of a mess. This song should stay in a galaxy far, far away.

Hologram Girl



in the style of "Hollaback Girl" by No Doubt

SCENE: A second encounter at Jabba's pad.

LYRICS: "A few times I've been around this track/ And like that I'm gone and I'm lightning fast/ 'Cause I ain't no hologram girl/ So that's right, Hutt/ meet me at the track/ No dirty tricks/ no hidden attack."

SAMPLE DANCE MOVE: The Force Pose

VERDICT: A very danceable song that somewhat maintains the sassy attitude of Gwen Stefani's original, even if the subject matter is changed to a lady's love for her spaceship.



REVIEW
Star Wars Kinect
Xbox 360

Swinging your arm around to

battle bad guys with a virtual lightsaber seems like a childhood fantasy come true, but believe it or not, suiting up as a Jedi is the worst part of "Star Wars Kinect." The motion controls are messy and the story is weaker than that of "Episode I." Several of the minigames steal the show. "Rancor Rampage," in which you control a giant monster and wreak havoc (and eat unsuspecting people and droids) on four different planets is wicked fun. "Galactic Dance-Off," which is basically a "Star Wars" version of "Dance Central," and the fast-paced "Podracing" minigames also are worthwhile. The Force is strong in this one, even if the motions controls are sometimes weak. **R.S.**



Ridge Racer: Unbounded
PS3, XB360



This under-the-radar version of “Ridge Racer” might not feel like previous versions of the classic racing game, but it’s one hell of a ride. The emphasis is on a kind of amped-up street racing in which you drift around corners and tail opponents to increase a “power” meter. Once filled, your car gets a zippy speed boost and has the power to “frag” other cars—crashing them into a fiery piece of wreckage. The extreme difficulty of “Ridge Racer: Unbounded” may annoy casual gear-heads, but the racing experience remains pure adrenaline-pumping goodness.

THREE TO PLAY

BY RYAN SMITH | FOR REDEYE



Kid Icarus: Uprising
Nintendo 3DS



If your memory of “Kid Icarus” is a bit fuzzy, it’s probably because the series hasn’t seen a major release in more than 20 years. Nintendo’s finally dusted off its forgotten hero Pit, who resembles Cupid in a toga, for a new 3DS title stuffed with an incredible amount of things to do—soaring air combat, ground-based battles, versus multiplayer, weapon customization and more. The result is a game that does justice to the classic, even if getting the hang of the stylus-based controls can be a tougher fight than any of the Medusa boss characters.



Ninja Gaiden 3
PS3, XB360



There’s an interesting concept behind “Ninja Gaiden 3,” in which your badass ninja assassin hero begins to feel guilt about slaughtering so many enemy combatants, some of whom actually get on their knees to beg for mercy. But it’s jarring to have guilt come into play in a game in which nearly every death is shown in glamorous slow-motion, with blood splashing across the screen. The action is quite good in “Ninja Gaiden 3,” but the incoherent story, laughable dialogue and half-assed multiplayer mode drag it down.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



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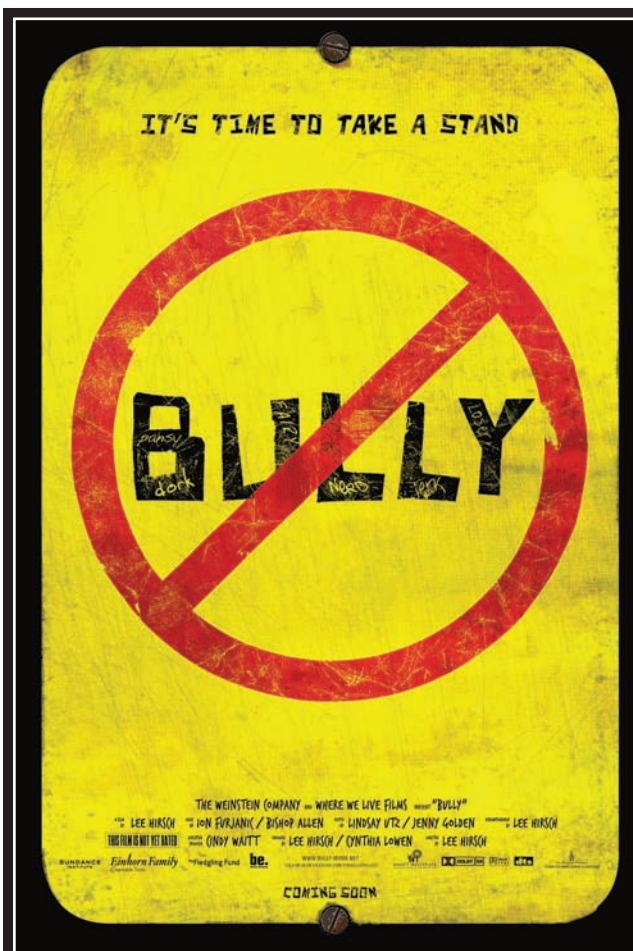
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responsible if, for any reason, winner
is unable to use his/her prize in whole
or in part. Prizes received through this
promotion are not for resale.

IN THEATERS APRIL 13!

MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

♿ Handicapped Access ♦ Digital Sound ✓ Dolby Stereo ★ No Passes ♯ Hearing - Impaired
G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily ♿

- **Safe House** (R) ♦ 10:35, 1:20, 4:10, 10:20
- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) ♦ 10:30, 11:30, 1:50, 2:50, 5:15, 6:15, 7:10, 8:40, 9:40
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) ♦ 11:05, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 11:00, 3:15, 7:30
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) 11:40, 2:20, 5:05
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 10:55, 3:30, 8:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 1:10, 5:45, 10:10
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **They Call It Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain** (NR) ★ 7:00
- **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** (PG-13) 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
- **Goon** (R) 2:15, 4:55, 7:25, 9:40
- **Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R) 2:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
- **Footnote** (PG) 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
- **Delicacy** (PG-13) 4:30, 9:55
- **The Raid: Redemption** (R) 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05
- **The Deep Blue Sea** (R) 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
- **The Artist** (PG-13) 2:00

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **American Reunion** (R) Advance Tickets Available
- **Rascal Flatts: Changed** (NR) 7:00
- **American Reunion** (R) 12:01
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 12:00, 4:10, 8:20
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 10:50, 3:10, 7:20
- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) 11:00, 11:40, 2:00, 2:40, 4:30, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:40, 10:40
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) 10:20, 12:50, 3:40, 6:10, 9:00
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) (Open captioned) 1:10, 9:50
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) 10:30, 3:50, 7:00
- **Musical Chairs** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 11:30, 4:10, 9:10
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 1:50, 6:40
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:30

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) ★ 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) ★ 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) ★ 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45, 10:10

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) ♦ 10:30, 1:30, 4:25, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:45, 10:35
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) 10:15, 10:45, 11:45, 12:45, 1:50, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:30, 6:00, 7:20, 9:00, 10:00
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) ♦ 10:25, 11:05, 1:55, 3:50, 4:35, 6:35, 7:25, 9:20, 10:10
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 10:15, 2:45, 7:15
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) ♦ 11:00, 2:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 11:40, 3:05
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 11:10, 1:45, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
- **Silent House** (R) 11:15, 1:40, 4:05, 6:40, 9:05
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) ♦ 10:35, 1:10, 3:45, 6:30, 9:10
- **John Carter 3D** (PG-13) 5:40, 9:15
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 10:15, 1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 10:05

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
(312) 846-2800

- **In Search of Haydn** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **Mulberry Child** (NR) 8:15 P.M.
- **Handsworth Songs** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **Stony Island** (PG) 8:15 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 326-0628

- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
- **A Separation** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
- **Silent House** (R) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
- **John Carter** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **The Salt of Life** (NR) 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
- **The Kid With a Bike** (PG-13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

THE PATIO THEATRE

6008 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 685-4291

- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 7:30 P.M.

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) 10:30, 11:45, 1:00, 2:15, 3:45, 5:00, 6:30, 7:45, 9:15, 10:30, 11:50
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) ♦ 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:00
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) (Closed caption) ♦ 1:15, 4:10, 9:50
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) ♦ 12:15, 1:15, 3:10, 4:10, 6:00, 8:50, 9:50
- AMC Independent **The Artist** (PG-13) 11:30, 1:55
- **American Reunion** (R) ♦ 12:01 A.M.
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) ♦ 11:00, 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) ♦ 11:15, 1:40, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
- AMC Independent **Goon** (R) 10:15, 12:45, 3:20, 5:50, 8:25, 10:55
- AMC Independent **Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 10:25
- AMC Independent **The Raid: Redemption** (R) 11:15, 1:40, 4:10, 6:35, 9:10, 11:40
- AMC Independent **Friends With Kids** (R) 10:20, 1:05, 3:55
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) ♦ 10:05, 4:45, 6:55, 9:15, 11:30
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 5:05, 10:20
- AMC Independent **Musical Chairs** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
- AMC Independent **We the Party** (R) ♦ 12:01 A.M.
- AMC Independent **Love** (NR) 7:20 P.M.
- **Rascal Flatts: Changed** (NR) ♦ 7:00 P.M.
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) ♦ 12:15, 2:25
- **John Carter 3D** (PG-13) 10:50, 2:00, 5:15, 8:35
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **John Carter** (PG-13) 10:15, 4:45, 11:00
- **Safe House** (R) 8:15 P.M.
- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) 11:10, 2:15, 5:20, 8:25, 10:55
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 12:35, 1:35, 2:25, 3:25, 4:10, 5:10, 6:00, 6:55, 7:50, 8:30, 9:35, 10:40, 11:00, 11:30
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) 10:00, 10:55, 11:55, 12:55, 1:50, 2:50, 3:50, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:40, 9:40, 10:35
- **American Reunion** (R) 12:01 A.M.
- **Project X** (R) 11:00 P.M.
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 12:00, 4:15, 8:30
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) 11:45, 3:15, 6:20, 9:25, 11:45
- AMC Independent **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** (PG-13) 11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
- AMC Independent **October Baby** (PG-13) 10:10, 3:05, 8:15
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:05
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 12:40, 5:45, 10:55
- **Titanic: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) 10:00, 2:30, 7:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 10:20, 12:45, 3:10, 5:35
- **John Carter 3D** (PG-13) 1:30, 8:00
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 10:20, 11:45, 1:15, 2:40, 4:10, 5:15, 7:05, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **American Reunion** (R) Advance Tickets Available
- **Marvel's the Avengers** (NR) Advance Tickets Available
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 12:00, 1:00, 4:00, 5:00, 8:00, 9:00
- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:10, 2:50, 4:50, 7:20, 8:00, 10:20
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) 5:30, 10:40
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10
- **Friends With Kids** (R) 1:15, 3:45, 10:15
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 4:40, 10:05
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 2:00, 7:30
- **Rascal Flatts: Changed** (NR) 7:00

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **American Reunion** (R) 12:01 A.M.
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 10:00, 2:30, 7:00

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cermak, Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **John Carter** (PG-13) 4:20, 10:40
- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) 11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 6:00, 7:30, 8:40, 10:15
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) 11:15, 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:45, 10:30
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) 10:45, 11:30, 1:45, 2:30, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 10:45
- **American Reunion** (R) 12:01 A.M.
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 11:00, 12:00, 3:15, 4:15, 7:30, 8:30
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:20
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 11:10, 1:45, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:20
- **John Carter 3D** (PG-13) 1:15, 7:25
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 10:40, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104

- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 3:40, 6:20, 8:40
- **John Carter 3D** (PG-13) 4:00, 10:20 P.M.
- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) ★ 11:10 P.M.
- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) ★ 12:40, 1:20, 2:00, 3:30, 4:20, 6:10, 7:15, 7:40, 9:30
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 12:50 P.M.
- **21 Jump Street** (R) (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:40, 7:45, 10:40
- **Safe House** (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:50
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) ★ 4:50, 10:15
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 1:30, 4:45
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) ★ 12:30, 1:00, 2:10, 2:45, 3:45, 4:15, 5:15, 6:00, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:10, 10:10, 10:45
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:15, 3:50, 6:45, 9:30
- **American Reunion** (R) ★ 12:00 A.M.
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) ★ 12:10, 2:30, 3:00, 4:10, 6:30, 7:10, 8:20, 9:50, 10:30
- **Rascal Flatts: Changed** (NR) ★ 7:00 P.M.

VIP Premium 21+

- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) ★ **VIP Premium 21+** 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) ★ **VIP Premium 21+** 12:10, 4:10, 8:20

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)
1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560

- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) ★ 12:40, 2:55, 7:25, 9:40
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) ★ 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) ★ 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) ★ 12:00, 4:00, 8:00
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) ★ 5:10
- **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 12:00
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 492-0123 ♿

- **A Separation** (PG-13) 5:00
- **The Hunger Games** (PG-13) 11:30, 12:45, 2:00, 2:50, 3:55, 5:20, 6:10, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 7:00, 9:15
- **John Carter** (PG-13) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 11:20, 12:45, 2:10, 3:35, 6:25, 7:55, 9:15, 10:45
- **Mirror Mirror** (PG) 11:15, 12:30, 2:00, 3:10, 4:35, 5:45, 7:15, 9:55
- **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) 8:20, 10:45
- **Wrath of the Titans 3D** (PG-13) 11:10, 12:00, 1:40, 2:30, 4:10, 5:00, 6:40, 7:30, 9:10, 10:00
- **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 9:55
- **Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R) 11:05, 1:15, 3:30, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 11:30
- **Titanic 3D** (PG-13) 3:35, 7:40
- **American Reunion** (R) 12:01
- **Rascal Flatts: Changed** (NR) 7:00
- **The Raid: Redemption** (R) 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 7:30, 8:30, 10:55
- **Footnote** (PG) 11:25, 1:55, 4:30
- **The Kid With a Bike** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05

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THURSDAY'S TOP SHOWS

Wild Flag

9:15 p.m. Sold out. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St.
 773-549-4140.

We still prefer Sleater-Kinney, but that doesn't mean WF isn't solid too.

Listen up, Chicago bands—now's the time

By Matt Pais

REDEYE SOUND BOARD

The deadline for RedEye's Rock 'n' Vote 2012 has been extended. In past years, finalists appeared at the North Coast Music Festival (Pyro Fighter) and the Taste of Chicago (Yeah Dude, Briar Rabbit). And none of those local bands even won our annual contest.

Think your local band deserves more exposure too? Great! For the ninth year running, we're putting on a show to help showcase Chicago bands our readers should know about. You can be an all-female rap trio, five dudes who play guitars and keyboards without a drummer, and anything

in between. Just send in your demo (music, bio, and anything else you've got). We'll pick the top 10 submissions, and RedEye readers will listen to the finalists and vote for who gets to play our concert May 16 at Hard Rock Cafe.

Don't delay! Submissions must be received by April 16. If you're entering electronically, send submissions (music, color hi-res photos, etc.) to mpais@tribune.com and prove that you rock!

Mail to:

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 Chicago, IL 60611

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4x4, Auto, #P1106A
\$11,900



2004 Mercedes-Benz C-Class 4Matic
Mint, #P1286
\$11,990



2010 Dodge Avenger SXT
Auto, Silver, #P1190
\$11,999



2006 Nissan Maxima SE
Loaded, Low Miles, Auto, #P1241
\$11,999



2011 Nissan Versa S
Auto, Silver, #P1239
\$13,900



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Silver, Auto, #P1198
\$13,999



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'Scandal' sizzles in its silliness



SHOW PATROL

Curt Wagner

» cwagner@tribune.com
» @showpatrol

ABC's new drama "Scandal" is silly, but entertaining.

Over my viewing of three episodes, I smirked and rolled my eyes, laughed (not because something was meant to be funny) and mumbled, "I won't be watching this show again." I also chuckled at some genuinely funny dialogue, felt a tug at the heartstrings and,

toward the end of every episode, decided I just had to see what was happening next.

"Scandal" comes from "Grey's Anatomy" exec producer Shonda Rhimes, and like "Grey's" it exists in its own reality that often stretches credibility. It has a glossy sheen and pretty people who are appealing and believable in their roles. It's what Rhimes has them doing that is sometimes far-fetched.

Kerry Washington stars as Olivia Pope, a Washington, D.C., "fixer" who inspires loyalty

among her employees and fear from the people with whom she clashes. Before setting up her own crisis management firm, Olivia helped get President Fitzgerald Grant (Tony Goldwyn) elected.

In the premiere, Olivia sends one of her lawyers, Harrison Wright (Columbus Short), to hire a new member of her team, Quinn Perkins (Katie Lowes), that also includes lawyer Stephen Finch (Henry Ian Cusick), investigator Abby Whelan (Darby Stanchfield) and tech guy Huck (Guillermo Diaz).

Harrison tells Quinn that lawyers who work for Olivia are "gladiators in suits," and that Olivia "isn't a good guy; she's the best guy."

I have an issue with that line and many like it. Rhimes sets up Olivia a fast-talking, decisive crusader with a strong sense of right and wrong. Yet Rhimes undermines the character when Olivia breaks her own strict moral code over a guy. (Not saying who; spoiler!) Olivia repeatedly says, "I trust my gut," and that it's never wrong. Until it is, which makes all those "gut" boasts seem like wasted lines.

Maybe love does make you do strange things, but not Olivia! (At least not Olivia as she has been written here.)



Scandal

9 p.m. Thursday, ABC

Romantic entanglements and emotional reactions, however, are part of the formula Rhimes has been so successful using on "Grey's Anatomy." "Scandal" is full of her familiar hairpin plot twists, moralizing and boomerang character reveals. Yet they make the proceedings so fun.

Each week Olivia and her team take on a new case—a decorated soldier with a secret who is accused of murder; a D.C. madam with a troubling client list; a mogul's spoiled son accused of rape—while Olivia works with and against her old boss in the White House and his closest adviser, Cyrus Beene (Jeff Perry).

The White House stuff is the silliest. No matter how fast these people bark their lines, "The West Wing" this is not. But it is "Scandal," and that title clues you in on exactly what you're getting: a tantalizingly juicy soap opera.



'Scandal' star Kerry Washington as Olivia Pope

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'Fifty Shades of Grey' is a hit with women

MCT

At the nail salon, the grocery store and the gym, Jen Boudin of Melville, N.Y., has been urging friends and even strangers to read "Fifty Shades of Grey"—a racy romance incorporating bedroom bondage and servitude that has become a grassroots phenomenon among women.

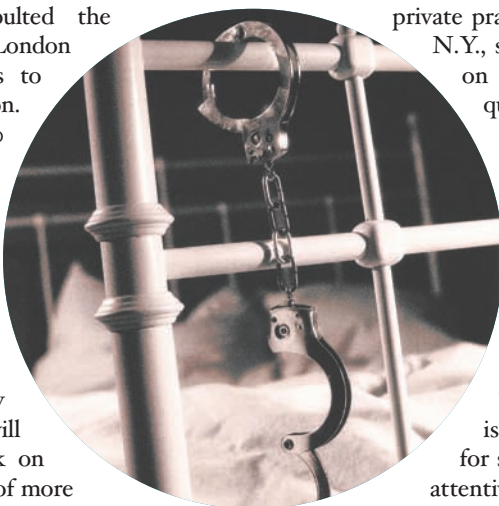
"I'm at the gym, we're washing our hands at the sink. I say, 'Have you read the book?' That's what it's known as—'the book,'" Boudin says. The allure? "Shades of Grey" is chick lit gone wild.

"Fifty Shades" tells the tale of college student Anastasia Steele and 27-year-old billionaire entrepreneur Christian Grey, who asks Steele to sign a contract to be his submissive partner in a sadomasochistic relationship.

The power of word-of-mouth recommen-

dation has catapulted the novel by unknown London author E.L. James to worldwide attention. This week, 575,000 paperback copies of "Fifty Shades of Grey" hit U.S. bookstores. On April 17, the remaining two books in the trilogy—"Fifty Shades Darker" and "Fifty Shades Freed"—will join the first book on shelves, for a total of more than 1 million copies.

Laurie Segal, a social worker in



private practice in Williston Park, N.Y., says the book has taken on a life of its own. "The question is: Why? What does it touch upon in the psyche of women?" she says.

The women who like "Fifty Shades" like it not because of the kinky sex but because it is an escape from their everyday lives. The sexually gifted Grey is handsome, wealthy and, for some readers, incredibly attentive.

Unlike many of the book's readers, Steele isn't weighed down by responsi-

bilities; her mind isn't cluttered with a to-do list. She is discovering sex for the first time. Inside and outside the "Red Room of Pain"—Grey's playroom where Steele encounters his whips, chains and handcuffs—he wants to make all the decisions and she typically lets him.

That relationship has turned off many people, including celebrity therapist Dr. Drew Pinsky, who has called the books violent and the obsession with them "disturbing." However, readers are quick to point out the book is not a how-to guide or a testament to the lifestyle.

"I don't think women who are reading this book are going out and buying whips and chains and masks," said Kathleen Schmidt of Glen Rock, N.J. "I think it's just a fantasy and it takes them away." **GETTY IMAGES PHOTO**

A 'FIFTY SHADES' CHRONOLOGY

May 2011

"Fifty Shades of Grey" is published as e-book by a small Australian publishing house.

September 2011

A sequel, "Fifty Shades Darker," is published.

January 2012

The final book, "Fifty Shades Freed," is published.

March 2012

The trilogy has sold more than 250,000 copies. Universal Pictures and Focus Features acquire rights to make a movie.

April 2012

Vintage Books publishes more than a million paperback copies in the U.S. after acquiring the trilogy for a reported seven-figure sum.

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TRENCH TREND

MCT

Spring's mix of rainy days and cool evenings begs for a stylish outerwear covering. Thankfully this season's toppers are top of the line.

Statement trenches, '50s-style dusters and bold anoraks abound.

Trenches were a highlight of spring fashion shows, with standard-bearer Burberry featuring a turquoise trench made from tiny strands of leather woven with raffia. "It was like looking at the most intricately woven African basket," says Jen Ford, fashion news and features director for Lucky magazine.

"This is really the time to splash out in a great statement trench," she says. "If your clothes tend to be a little more classic or basic, a statement coat is a fun way to add punch to your everyday wardrobe. It's a really easy way to dabble in a trend. If you want a touch of tribal, it's easy to mix in with your blacks or khakis."

The words "statement trench" might conjure images of screaming bright colors, but subtle colors also make a stunning statement. Trenches in more muted colors such as egg-shell blue or other soft pastels work well in many wardrobes.

But Ford cautions that a trench must work well with the colors in your existing wardrobe.

"It's spring, so your coat is going to be open and you'll see what's underneath."

Anoraks are broadening their appeal beyond the sports scene, with designers such as Marc Jacobs and Victoria Beckham turning out the jackets in fabrics like sheeny satin and rock-and-roll metallics.



A model walks the runway at the Marc Jacobs fashion show during New York Fashion Week. Statement trenches, '50s-style dusters and bold anoraks are hot for spring. GETTY IMAGES

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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5	4	2	6	8	3	9	7	1
9	7	6	8	4	5	3	1	2
2	3	5	9	1	6	4	8	7
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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

M	O	T	H		T	E	M	P	O		U	R	G	E
I	D	E	A		O	R	I	O	N		N	E	E	D
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L	A	B	O	R	A	T	O	R	Y		S	T	U	N
A	C	E	S		P	A	U	S	E		K	E	E	L
B	E	T	A		R	U	D	E	R		I	D	L	Y

ACROSS

- 1 Bread rolls
5 Rotates
10 Little Jack Horner's prize
14 Willing to reconsider
15 Frog's noise
16 Go higher
17 Facial center
18 Awaken
19 Above
20 Went into
22 Popular cat breed
24 Argument
25 Division of a long poem
26 Dug for ore
29 Fraternity letter
30 Each _; one another
34 Excessively dry
35 Soft drink
36 _eyed; not quite awake
37 Stir together
38 Conscientious
40 Corrupt
41 Actors' talks to audience
43 Mr. Koppel
44 Sensible
45 Transparent
46 Craze
47 Alma _; an old school
48 Danger
50 Pea casing
51 Dishonest
54 Gang member
58 Journals
59 Ms. Moorehead
61 Ms. Turner
62 Competent
63 Good buys
64 Wickedness
65 Unwanted plant
66 Fashion
67 Palm tree fruit

DOWN

- 1 Rib or scapula
2 Sitting _; atop
3 _ egg; money saved
4 _ at; showed contempt
5 Threaded fastener
6 Nudge
7 Debtor's note
8 Capital of the Bahamas

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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20				21			22			23				
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58						59	60				61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

- 9 Coil of yarn
10 Move to the next grade
11 Not taped
12 Does drugs
13 Parisian mother
21 TV's _ Serling
23 Ring-shaped island
25 Paris, Rome or London
26 Cradle rockers, often
27 _ setter; reddish dog
28 Undeliverable mail

- 29 Little child
31 Usual practice
32 Clear the slate
33 Actress Winona
35 Boil contents
36 _ Abbott
38 Actress Bo _
39 Nourished
42 Removed from office
44 Walked like a duck
46 Appear jittery

- 47 Cow's remark
49 Peruses
50 Sheriff's group
51 Talon
52 King's attire
53 Make eyes at
54 Satan's realm
55 Molten rock
56 College credit
57 Boy or man
60 Negative vote

20+ STORES

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DOESN'T HAVE QUITE THE SAME RING, DOES IT? LET'S GET RETRO

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Duuuude. Sweet. Fox is celebrating its 25th anniversary April 22, which really can mean only one thing: cast reunions time. "That '70s Show" alums Ashton Kutcher, Wilmer Valderrama, Laura Prepon and Mila Kunis have been confirmed for the two-hour special, thr.com reports, and we can only hope more will follow. We took a look at where the cast has landed since the show ended in 2006 to see who's toking their way to the top.

DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA

1 Ashton Kutcher (*Michael Kelso*) Ashton, we don't actually like you, but anyone who steals Charlie Sheen's "Two and a Half Men" thunder can't help but earn the top spot on this list. He's also done all manner of terrible romantic comedies, sold digital cameras and possibly been responsible for Demi Moore's recent demise.

2 Mila Kunis (*Jackie Burkhardt*) Jackie would totally hate being overshadowed by Kelso, but we're pretty sure Mila's too classy to care. She's had a good run recently between "Black Swan" and (fake) getting it on with Justin Timberlake in "Friends With Benefits," and her new movie, "Ted," looks potentially awesome.

3 Wilmer Valderrama (*Fez*) Remember that episode where Fez and Jackie enter a roller-skating competition? Wait, what were we talking about? Oh right! Wilmer's currently co-starring on NBC's "Awake," which airs Thursdays, but we're more interested in his love interests, both real and wildly rumored. Eh? Minka Kelly?

4 Laura Prepon (*Donna Pinciotti*) We've had years to get used to it, but we STILL don't like Laura as a blond. Chelsea Handler must, since Laura scored the lead on NBC's "Are You There, Chelsea?" but the fact that we had to double-check that it's even still on doesn't bode well. (It is, in case you were wondering.)

5 Topher Grace (*Eric Foreman*) We didn't actually realize that Eric wasn't on every single episode of this show, which is pretty telling as to when we stopped watching it. Tough nuggets for him, since the biggest things he's done lately are "Spider-Man 3" and "Valentine's Day." Yep, he got the call for that one.

6 Lisa Robin Kelly (*Laurie Foreman*) We're not going to beat around the bush here: Girlfriend is not doing well. The 42-year-old, who played Eric Foreman's hoey big sister, was arrested last weekend on domestic violence charges. The mugshot says it all.

That '10s Show



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red hot

Further proof that everyone is only six degrees from Kevin Bacon: The actor and wife Kyra Sedgwick are distant cousins! The 10-part PBS series "Finding Your Roots" uncovered the connection, according to zap2it.com. Other episodes look at the family histories of Samuel L. Jackson, Maggie Gyllenhaal, John Legend and a bunch of people only regular PBS viewers probably care about. The kissing cousins episode airs at 7 p.m. Sunday.



Is that legal?



“Apples and oranges, you know. I love all fruit.”

—**Emma Stone**, on Ellen DeGeneres' TV show, answering a question about who is a better kisser, "Crazy, Stupid, Love" hottie Ryan Gosling or "The Amazing Spider-Man" star Andrew Garfield

Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

HOT DATE

JUNE 19

That's when Swell Season's Glen Hansard will drop his first solo album. The release of "Rhythm and Repose" will be followed by a four-city tour that includes The Vic on June 26, avclub.com reports.



They'll be back

Well, here's a sequel we never saw coming: "Triplets." Yes, it's an update on the 1988 blockbuster "Twins," starring Danny DeVito and Arnold Schwarzenegger. And the third triplet: Looks like **Eddie Murphy**. "I would do that in two seconds, because that's real entertainment," the former Governorator told comingsoon.net in an interview published Wednesday.



“I don't have anything to hide.”

—**Rihanna**, to Elle, on her relationship with Chris Brown

Cue your DVR

Step aside, Twi-hards. For those who prefer their vampires (and other mythical creatures) with less angst, Season 5 of "True Blood" kicks off June 10, HBO said Wednesday. Or if rapid-fire dialogue is more your thing, the network also announced that the "The Newsroom," penned by "The Social Network" writer Aaron Sorkin, will debut June 24.



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